

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
The Region 5 (Southern California))	
700 MHz Regional Committee)	WT Docket No. 02-378
Proposed Public Safety Plan)	
)	
The Development of Operational,)	
Technical and Spectrum Requirements)	
for Meeting Federal, State and Local)	WT Docket No. 96-86
Public Safety Agency Communication)	
Requirements through the Year 2010)	

To: The Commission

**COMMENTS OF
THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA**

The County of San Bernardino, California (“County”), supports without reservation the Region 5 (Southern California) 700 MHz Regional Committee Proposed Public Safety Plan. The County actively participated in the plan’s development, and believes this plan will enhance communications of the many public safety agencies serving Southern California’s ten counties, including tribal lands.

However, the County is concerned that this spectrum will remain unavailable for use in the Southern California area including San Bernardino County. Until the incumbent Television Stations are relocated through the transition to high definition television (HDTV) the Southern California area cannot use this valuable resource. The need for

this spectrum was recently demonstrated by the October, 2003 Southern California wildfires. Two of these very destructive fires (the Grand Prix and Old fires), burned in San Bernardino County. The large size and number of simultaneous fire stretched the spectrum resources almost to the breaking point. More importantly, new higher speed mobile data systems that can cover wide areas can only be implemented in this 700 MHz band. These mobile data systems would have greatly aided both fire and law enforcement activities during these fires. The threat of future fires in San Bernardino County remains very high along with the threat of flooding and mudslides. The County would like to implement any tools possible to deal with these future threats.

The County respectfully requests the Commission to use any and all regulatory tools available to free this 700 MHz spectrum for use by the County at an early date certain.

Very truly yours,

THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

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